

Amendments

In the Claims:

Al

Claim 1. (currently amended). A shaft sealing apparatus, comprising:

a vacuum casing formed with a vacuum chamber;

a driving shaft having an outer cylindrical surface and movably extending in said vacuum chamber of said vacuum casing; and

a sealing ring in the form of an annular ring shape and including a sealing lip held in contact with said outer cylindrical surface of said driving shaft and formed with an annular groove, an annular spring member received in said annular groove of said sealing lip and operative to impart a force to said sealing lip to ensure that said sealing lip is held in tight contact with said outer cylindrical surface of said driving shaft, and a peripheral portion radially outwardly extending from said sealing lip, in which said outer cylindrical surface of said driving shaft is smaller in surface roughness Ra than 0.1 (μm).

Claim 2. (original) A shaft sealing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said outer cylindrical surface of said driving shaft is larger in Vickers hardness Hv than 650.

Claim 3. (original) A shaft sealing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said annular spring member of said sealing ring is made of a metal wire in the form of a helical shape and is of

A1 a circular cross-section taken on the plane perpendicular to the center axis passing therethrough.

Claim 4. (withdrawn)

Claim 5. (original) A shaft sealing apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said sealing lip of said sealing ring is made of a synthetic resin constituted by an ultra high molecular weight compound.

Claims 6-20 (withdrawn)
